

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A plasmid containing a tightly regulated promoter, wherein said promoter is operatively linked to an isolated and purified DNA sequence that encodes a peptidoglycan-associated lipoprotein (recombinant PAL) of gram-negative bacteria, ~~and~~ wherein the recombinant PAL, under the control of said tightly regulated promoter, is expressed in lipidated form and in yields that are higher than those expressed ~~by a~~ when the recombinant PAL ~~that is not~~ is under the control of a ~~tightly~~ leaky regulated promoter.

Claim 2. (Original) The plasmid of Claim 1 wherein the PAL is the P6 protein of *Haemophilus influenzae* (*H. influenzae*).

Claim 3 (Original): The plasmid of Claim 2, wherein the promoter is an arabinose inducible promoter or a T7 promoter.

Claim 4 (Original): The plasmid of Claim 3 wherein the promoter is an arabinose inducible promoter.

Claim 5 (Original): The plasmid of Claim 4 wherein the plasmid is designated pPX4020.

Claim 6 (Original): The plasmid of Claim 3 wherein the promoter is a T7 promoter.

Claim 7 (Original): The plasmid of Claim 6 wherein the plasmid is designated pPX4019.

Claim 8 (Original): A bacterial host cell transformed, transduced or transfected with the plasmid of Claim 1.

Claim 9 (New): A plasmid containing a tightly regulated promoter selected from the group consisting of an arabinose inducible promoter and a T7 promoter, wherein said tightly regulated promoter is operatively linked to an isolated and purified DNA sequence that encodes the P6 protein of *H. influenzae* (recombinant P6), wherein the recombinant P6, under the control of said tightly regulated promoter, is expressed in lipidated form and in yields that are higher than those expressed when the recombinant P6 is under the control of a leaky regulated promoter.

Claim 10 (New): The plasmid of Claim 9 wherein the tightly regulated promoter is an arabinose inducible promoter and the plasmid is designated pPX4020.

Claim 11 (New): The plasmid of Claim 9 wherein the tightly regulated promoter is a T7 promoter and the plasmid is designated pPX4019.

Claim 12 (New): A bacterial host cell transformed, transduced or transfected with the plasmid of Claim 9.

Claim 13 (New): A plasmid containing an arabinose inducible promoter, which is a tightly regulated promoter in that it is almost completely inactive if no arabinose is present and some glucose is present, wherein said arabinose inducible promoter is operatively linked to an isolated and purified DNA sequence that encodes the P6 protein of *H. influenzae* (recombinant P6), wherein the recombinant P6, under the control of said arabinose inducible promoter, is expressed in lipidated form and in yields that are higher than those expressed when the recombinant P6 is under the control of a leaky regulated promoter.